

The *Tinklarian*. Doctor's Eighteen Epistle
written in the 66 Year of his Age, 1736.
dedicated to the Devil, not for his Good;
but for his Evil; which contains a new
LIGHT.



Dedicated a Light to Beati Law, when he was in *France*, and he gave me Seven Hundred Livers for it; but I expect nothing from the Devil but Seven Hundred Lies. The Reason I dedicate this Light to him, he hinders many from buying my Light; ye will say, that I should gift my Light, I Answer, pay ye the Printer, and I shall write Lights so long as I am able; but I must not offer it to the Duke of *Douglas*, nor the Lord *Ruglin*, nor to the Laird of *Carnwath*, nor Deacon *Cumming* the Flether, there is many more, but I want Room, *Carnwath's* Father gave me a Guinea for one Light, but he would not give me one Half-peny for many.

Ye may admire why these 18 Epistles which contains so much Light, doth not sell; I shall give the Reason of it; it is because the Devil strives to keep his Possession all in quiet; he doth what he can to hinder Men from the Light, he makes many rise in a Passion against my Light; when a strong Man armed keepeth his Palace, his Goods are in Peace, these *Jews* being in such a Passion against the Light, which made them say, he casteth out Devils by *Belzebub* the Prince of Devils. These Words did neither consist with Law nor Reason, it being a Thing well known, and universally practised, that no Man will disturb or disquiet his own peaceable Possession, neither can it be supposed, that Satan will do it, because he acts by this common Rule, in keeping down; and hindring any Thing that may disquiet the Breath of Peace, or is any Way dangerous to his Possession; an uneasy Government is the Occasion of Tumults and Rebellions, and also the Occasion of the Revolt of Subjects; the Devil hath his own Troubles to keep his Kingdom in Peace, because the Light of

(205)
our own Conscience tells us of the Wages of Sin; it is not an easy Matter for him to Rule his Slaves with so much Peace and Quietness, and this he only doth, only by tempting us to Sin.

So says the Scriptures, *Every one that doth Evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light lest his Deeds should be reprov'd*. From this we may observe, That the greatest Thing that disquieteth the Devil's Kingdom, is Light, and the Reason of this Disquietment is by the Discovery that Light makes, and the shame that follows, some Times Light will break through all dark Clouds, by the Light of the Scriptures and our own Conscience, then the Devil uses all his Power and Cunning to make Men hate the Light, some Times when I offer my Light to Men, they curse both me and my Light, the Reason of it is, because it is the Devils great Work in this World to keep Men from Light, some Times he forbears to do any Thing that may Discompose or Affright a wounded Soul, and at other Times he loves to Torment and Affright them, to cause their Wounds to stink; but in this Case, he takes a contrary Way, by his keeping off all Reflections of Conscience, by his concealling the evil and danger of Sin, so he lulls Men a Sleep in their Folly, *Till a Dart strick through their Liver, says Solomon*. The Devil raises up Confidence and Prelumption, and Security in the Minds of Men, so by that, he makes them so stupid and so tish, and careless about their Souls, that they are easy about Light from any Man.

The Devil is always busy and diligent with his secret Contrivance, that he strives to hinder all Occasions of Light and Reproofs, how Drowsy doth he make People on the Sabbath-day, and how doth he make their Heart to wander in Time of Sermon, when any faithful Minister strives to draw a Sinner from the Errors of his Ways, it is hard to know how many Ways he hath to divert and hinder Ministers with private Discouragements, to speak boldly the Mind of the Scriptures, the Devil hath such a Power, that he gave a Stop of one and Twenty Days to the Angel, that was to bring the comfortable Message to *Daniel* of the Hearing of his Prayers, he may more easily hinder and

oppose the Designs of faithful Ministers, some Times he doth this by visible Signs, by his stirring up the Spirits of wicked Men, for to hinder them to give faithful Warnings; the Devil kept *Jeroboam* quiet in his sinful Courses of Idolatry, so he stirs up *Amaziah* the Priest to banish the Prophet *Amos* from the Court, he envied *Amos*, because he knew by his plain and faithful dealing in his Way of preaching, should startle and awaken the Conscience of the King, so ye hear, the Envy of Ministers, some Times the Devil becomes a lying Spirit in the Mouths of many of the Ministers, and he makes them preach smooth Things and deceit, by telling them, that they may be in a good Condition, altho they have no Assurance of it, and that they may go to Heaven as well as the strictest and precisest, these Ministers do the Devil great Services, but the Scriptures condemns them, so says the Prophet of them, *They have healed also the Hurt of the Daughter of my People slightly, saying, Peace, Peace, when there was no Peace, they have seduced my People, some of them builds up a Wall, and others of them daubed with untempered Mortar.* Well doth the Devil love such Sermons, because this Temptation takes well upon Men, because it takes Advantage of the Humours and Inclinations of Men, for naturally Men thinks the best of themselves, by delighting in such Ministers that speak as they would have them, and they Love to have it so as we read.

The Devil strives to keep away the Light of the Word, by his catching it away as soon as it is spoken, so says the Scriptures, when any on heareth the Word, then cometh the wicked One, and he catcheth away that which was sown in his Heart, here it is made plain, that there is not a faithful Sermon preached, but some wicked Devil will be present, and narrowly Watch, and if he perceive any Thing spoken that may endanger or disquiet his peaceable Possession, then he lays out all his Power and Cunning to draw away our Hearts, sometimes by the Sight of the Eyes, some Times by vain Thoughts and Drowsiness, altho a Man should hear the Word attentively, how soon doth the Devil juggle it all out, either by our own, or others impertinent Discourses, or the Urgency of our Employment, by that

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Men do not lay Warnings and Threatnings to Heart nor by serious Meditation apply them to their Hearts nor Conscience.

Some Times the Devil Snuffs out a Mans Light by Crosses and Lones, Afflictions and Persecutions, so we read of them that received the Word with Joy and Affection, but presently they are offended, because of the Word, the Devil harks in their Lug, or rather in their Hearts, if they depart from Iniquity, they shall make themselves a Prey, Bonds, Imprisonment, and haired of the World, shall be their Lot, by these he fears Men from the Light.

Some Times the Devil smothers the Light, by choaking it with the Cares of the World, as those that received Seed among Thorns, so instead of seeking after Heaven and heavenly Things, he makes Men spend their Time, Strength and Affections, with the Cares of this Life, by these, the Light that some Times appeared to shine, are put out.

Sometimes the Devil hinders Men from coming to the Light, by their Misapprehensions of their State and Condition: In this Generation, he hath so far prevailed with Men, that they are become confident of their State: So, by that, they think they may take a moderate Way in sinning, and doth not take Notice of their Thoughts, Words and Actions; and they have no Convictions of idle Words, as foolish Talk, as Jestings or Leings, and think themselves in a good Condition, that these Sins is not such a great Matter as the Scriptures calls them. Hear what the Apostle says, *Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a Man soweth, that shall he also reap, let no Man deceive you with vain Words, for because of these Things, cometh the Wrath of God, upon the Children of Disobedience:* If Men did not think so, and avow it, and maintain such Principles, it had been altogether needles for the Apostle, to have written such Words.

The Devil also keeps many young People from the Light by Delays, if any Light break in upon them, then presently, he puts it in their Minds, by telling them, that there is Time enough afterward, you are but young, and has many Days before you, it is Time enough

enough when you are old, to mind these Things, you are but a Servant or Apprentice, and art under Command, and ye want Opportunity and Conveniency, for these serious Considerations; defer these Things until ye be a Master, and at your own Disposall; this is his great Deceits with young People, which I know by Experience, and this hinders them from coming to the Light; altho these pressing Exhortations be written to Day, while it is called to Day, harden not your Hearts, now is the excepted Time, now is the Day of Salvation, remember now thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth, before the evil Day come.

The Devil also puts out Mens Light, by the Hopes of Secrecy, that altho they have done Evil, their Mischances shall not be made known to the World: So we read of them, that they seek deep to hide their Counsel from the Lord, and their Works are in the Dark; and they say, who seeth us, when the overflowing Scourge shall pass through, it shall not come near unto us, for we have made Lies our Refuge.

When Light breaks through all Clouds of Darknes, and it cannot be avoided, when Men comes to see and believe, that there will be a Discovery of these hidden Works of Darknes. Then comes the Devil, and he uses all his Art and Cunning, to stir up the Hearts of People, to a Hatred of that Light, by raising in their Minds, Envy and Malice, against the Person that brings it to them, or offers it to them, well do I know this by Experience. The Devil turned the Heart of Ahab the King, against the faithful Warnings of Micaiah, upon a deep Prejudice that he had taken up against him; so he expresseth himself to the King of Judah, I hate him, says he, Because he never prophesieth Good unto me. I have been writing Books, now and then, these Twenty Four Years, for the Good of the Presbyterian Ministers, yet I am hated by many of them, they pass by, what is good and profitable for them, and they feed upon my Sores and Infirmities, as the Flies doth upon a sore Horse's Back, because of my Weakness, and Ignorance, and Poverty; and this disables them to put a right Construction upon any Thing I Writ.

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The Devil also endeavours, to engage Mens Hatred against the Light, by making them believe, that their Interest in this World, will be shaken, or endangered by it; if Interest can be drawn in, and made a Party, then it is no great Difficulty, to put all the Passions of a Man in Arms, to give open Defiance to any Discovery of the Light, or that Light can make. I have written against the Ministers great Stipends, and this offends them.

Him that they call their Master, send them out to Preach, and he did not allow them one Halfpenny for it, after they came back, he asked of them, if they laked any Thing, and they answered him, and said, They laked nothing. I say, and will maintain it, before all the Clergy in Britain, that if these rich Bishops in England, and the rich Ministers in Scotland, be the Servants of Christ, the Scriptures are not the Word of God, *Matthew, Mark, Luke*, is my Witnesses, *Matthew* says to them, *Provide neither Gold nor Silver*, *Mark* says to them, *that they should have no Money in their Purser*, *Luke* says the same, these is my Three faithful Witnesses. Now, they must either scrape out these Words from the Scriptures, otherwise no wise Man will believe that they are the Ministers of Christ, but only Hirelings, and our Lord says, the Hirelings careth not for the Sheep. The first Christian Emperor, was the First that hired the Clergy to Preach, the Honest Man did it upon a good Design; but the Devil was too old for him, I say, according to the Law of Christ, and according to my Judgment, that these rich Ministers deserves the Gallows, as well as these Three Men, who is now condemned, who robbed the King of his Money, I think a Man should be hanged for robing God, as well as to be hanged for robing the King, will a Man rob God, yea, says he, ye have robbed me, say they, wherein have we robbed thee, his Answer is, in Tithes and Offerings, *Mat. 3.* Tithes is their great Stipends, the neglect of Duty is their Offerings, which is both the Sins of Commission, and the Sins of Omission, for these Sins, these rich Ministers are cursed with a Curse, for ye have robbed me, says he, even this whole Nation, as ye read there that is all the rich Ministers in Scotland, And now O y

Priest.

Priests, this Commandment is for you, if ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to Heart, to give Glory unto my Name, saith the L O R D of Hosts, I will even send a Curse upon you. These Thoughts came in my Mind in the Watches of the Night which hindred me from Sleep, and if ye cannot prove it, the Devil put them in my Mind, you must stand to your hazard all you rich Ministers, Behold I am pressed under you, as a Cart is pressed that is full of Shaves, Amos 2: Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his Secret unto his Servants the Prophets, Amos 3: Those that robs the Poor, robs God; many Times I have been robbed by them to pay their Stipends, O that they could live by Faith, and not by Sense, then they would lack nothing, no more than Christs Ministers do, but Self-interest prevails wonderfully against God; which is plain, 1 Tim. 6. Chap. from the 6. Verse to the 12. where Paul teaches Timothy, in the Name of all the Ministers in the World; and as he is now crying to him, O Man of God, so I cry to them, O Men of God, flee the Sin of Covetousness, and he said unto them, take heed and beware of Covetousness, Luke 12.

My Writing is against their Interest, and this makes them hate it. I shall write a Scripture to this Purpose, *The Kings of the Earth set themselves, and the Rulers take Counsel together, against the Lord, and against his Anointed, saying, Let us break their Bonds asunder, and cast away their Cords from us.* This is a dreadful Scripture against Kings and Rulers, who allow them so much. It is also against these Clergy, for taking so much against Christ's Will. It was himself that forbade them to take it, he allowed them nothing but their Meat and Drink. Ye hear, that all this Quarrel was for their own Interest, they were suspicious and jealous, they thought that the setting up Christ upon his Throne, would eclipse their Power and Greatness, and this made them have a desperate Hatred against the Light. Ye hear, that Self-interest makes Men to open Rebellion against Christ's Laws, so say they, let us break their Bonds, and cast away their Cords. So ye hear, these Clergy will not be tied to Preach for their Meat, what better is these Clergy in our Days, they thought that Mr. Glas's Way of Preaching, was against their Interest. I must write

a Scripture to this Purpose, *Amaziah* the Priest, sent to *Jeroboam* the King, saying, *Amos* hath conspired against thee in the midst of the House of Israel, the Land is not able to bear all his Words. That Priest had such Antipathy against the Light; so he says to *Amos*, O thou Seer, go thee to the Land of Judah, and eat Bread; and prophesy there, but prophesy not again any more at *Bethel*; for it is the King's Chappel. So say they of Mr *Glas*, go and get Bread where you can, for you shall Preach no more in the King's Chappels: *Pashur* the Priest, smote *Jeremiah* the Prophet, ye hear that *Baal's* Priests cannot endure Light, the Devil stirs up Hatred against Light, because of the unavoidable Effects of Light, which are discovered, and manifested by Light. So we read, all Things that are reprov'd, are made manifest; for whatsoever doth make manifest his Light, the Issue of this Manifestation is Shame. Repentance is oftentimes expressed, by being ashamed; so the Devil; to avoid this, he turneth the Edge of Shame against the Light, which should be against Sin; when Men have sinned, and are like a Thief when he is taken, he falls into the Hands of Shame, for the avoiding of this, Men rebels against the Light. The Ground of this Hatred the Scripture tells us, least their Deeds should be reprov'd; then they are forced to bear their Shame, so they are made to hide themselves, as *Adam* and his Wife did, by Lies, and Pretences, and Excuses, or by any Fig Leaf that comes first to Hand. Those that lives in hot Countries, curses the Sun, because it scorches them with its Heat, so doth many, both curse me and my Light, instead of taking its Help; they rise up in Enmity against it.

Some wil say, how know I the Devil so well, will not any Man know his Master, when he hath served him Twenty Years.

3 AUG 61

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